(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a Special Squad of the Railway Board to monitor the reservation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some complaints have come to notice.

(b) Central Ticket Checking Squad and Vigilance Special Squad are already functioning in the Ministry of Railways who conduct checks at the stations and in trains to, inter-alia, detect the cases of malpractices in reservations. Besides, checks are also conducted by both Commercial and Vigilance Organizations at the Zonal Railways level also to detect the malpractices in reservations Offices. These arrangements are considered adequate.

Teesta Torsha Express

4090. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands were received by his Ministry from different sector for providing of AC Sleeper Coach in Teesta Torsha Express and increasing its speed;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some demands have been received in this regard.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to provide an A.C. 2nd Sleeper coach on 3141/3142 Teesta Torsha Express during 1996-97. However, speeding up of this train is not feasible at present due to operational constraints.

Occupation of Railway Quarters by Other than the Allottees

4091. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Railway quarters in cities and metropolis are under the occupation of persons other than the allottees;

(b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;

(c) whether any punitive action was taken against the offenders during each of the last three years by the North East Frontier Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Noise Pollution

4092. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the noise pollution results in the increase in deafness, heart beat, fluctuation in blood pressure, disorder in digestive system, muscles pull and loss of physical efficiency, and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to control the rising noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Excessive noise may cause temporary or permanent hearing loss and physiological disorders depending upon the intensity and duration of exposure.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following :

- Noise pollution has been included in the Air (prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Ambient Standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

  Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage.

- A code of practice for controlling noise at source, other than industries and automobiles, has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board.

- Steps have been taken for regulating the movement of heavy vehicles and segregating industries from residential areas.

- Environmental awareness campaigns have been launched through governmental and non-governmental organizations.

[*English*]

Boggies of the Trains

4093. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state :

(a) whether most of the boggies of the trains running in the country particularly under the Western Railway are in an obsolete condition,

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to replace them with new and good conditioned boggies?